

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A blade assembly for a laryngoscope including a handle, said blade assembly comprising:

base for coupling to the handle;

an elongated blade secured to the base, said elongated blade having a proximal end, a distal end, an upper surface, and a lower surface, said lower surface of said elongated blade being secured to said base at said proximal end, ~~and said blade being substantially flat and thin;~~

a first guide tube affixed to said elongated blade and having a proximal end and a distal end; and

a second guide tube affixed to said elongated blade adjacent said first guide tube and having a proximal end and a distal end, wherein

said first and second guide tubes ~~being~~ are constructed and arranged to direct tubes extended therethrough into the oral cavity of a patient;

said first guide tube is substantially straight along its entire length and said second guide tube has a curved portion; and

said elongated blade is curved, the curved portion of the second guide tube is curved in general conformity to the curvature of the elongated blade, and the first guide tube is not curved in general conformity to the curvature of the blade because said first guide tube is substantially straight along its entire length.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Original) The blade assembly of claim 1, further comprising a light attached to said elongated blade.

5. (Original) The blade assembly of claim 1, further comprising a tongue deflector having a portion extending in a direction transverse to the upper surface of the elongated blade along a marginal edge segment of said elongated blade.

6. (Original) The blade assembly of claim 1, wherein said first and second guide tubes are oriented at different angles of attack with respect to said elongated blade so that when said elongated blade is placed atop the tongue of a patient to effect laryngeal suspension, said first and second guide tubes direct respective tubes extended therethrough into different regions of the patient's oral cavity.

7-20. Cancelled.

21. (Previously Presented) The blade assembly of claim 1, wherein the proximal end of the first guide tube and the proximal end of the second guide tube are both positioned at the proximal end of the elongated blade.

22. (Previously Presented) The blade assembly of claim 21, wherein the distal end of the first guide tube and the distal end of the second guide tube are both positioned at about the midpoint of the elongated blade.

23. (Previously Presented) The blade assembly of claim 1, wherein the center of the distal end of the first guide tube is disposed above the center of the distal end of the second guide tube relative to the upper surface of the elongated blade.

24. (Previously Presented) The blade assembly of claim 23, wherein the center of the proximal end of the first guide tube is disposed below the center of the proximal end of the second guide tube relative to the upper surface of the elongated blade.

25. (Previously Presented) The blade assembly of claim 1, further comprising a first aspiration tube inserted into the first guide tube and a second aspiration tube inserted into the second guide tube.

26. (Currently amended) An assembly, comprising:

a base;

an elongated blade secured to the base, said elongated blade having a proximal end, a distal end, an upper surface, and a lower surface, said lower surface of said elongated blade being secured to said base at said proximal end;

a first guide means for guiding a first aspiration tube to a patient's laryngeal gutter, said first guide means being affixed to said elongated blade; and

a second guide means for guiding a second aspiration tube to a patient's glottic aperture, said second guide means being affixed to said elongated blade, wherein

said first guide means is substantially straight along its entire length and said second guide means has a curved portion; and

said elongated blade is curved, the curved portion of the second guide means is curved in general conformity to the curvature of the elongated blade, and the first guide means is not curved in general conformity to the curvature of the blade because said first guide means is substantially straight along its entire length.

27. (Previously Presented) The assembly of claim 26, wherein said first guide means comprises a first guide tube having a proximal end and a distal end and said second guide means comprises a second guide tube having a proximal end and a distal end.

28. (Previously Presented) The assembly of claim 27, wherein said first guide tube is substantially straight and said second guide tube has a curved portion.

29. (Previously Presented) The assembly of claim 28, wherein said elongated blade is curved and said curved portion of the second guide tube follows the curve of the elongated blade.

30. (Previously Presented) The assembly of claim 27, wherein the proximal end of the first guide tube and the proximal end of the second guide tube are both positioned at the proximal end of the elongated blade.

31. (Previously Presented) The assembly of claim 30, wherein the distal end of the first guide tube and the distal end of the second guide tube are both positioned at about the midpoint of the elongated blade.

32. (Previously Presented) The assembly of claim 27, wherein the center of the distal end of the first guide tube is disposed above the center of the distal end of the second guide tube relative to the upper surface of the elongated blade, and wherein the center of the proximal end of the first guide tube is disposed below the center of the proximal end of the second guide tube relative to the upper surface of the elongated blade.

33. (Previously Presented) The assembly of claim 27, further comprising a first aspiration tube inserted into the first guide tube and a second aspiration tube inserted into the second guide tube.

34. (Previously Presented) The assembly of claim 27, wherein said first and second guide tubes are oriented at different angles of attack with respect to said elongated blade.

35-49. Cancelled

50. (Previously presented) The blade assembly of claim 1, wherein said blade does not have an opening at its distal end.

51. (Previously presented) The blade assembly of claim 1, wherein said blade is not hollow.

52. (Previously presented) The blade assembly of claim 1, wherein said blade is not in the form of a tube.